

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of June 15, 2005, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 10, 11, 13-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over European reference EP0300889.

Finally, it is noted that claims 12, 16, 17 and 19 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to be in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicants have canceled claims 11, 15, 17 and 19, amended claims 10, 13, 14, 16 and 18, and added new claims 20-26.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness cited by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 10-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that EP0300889 discloses a car roof and ceiling unit. The reference does not disclose anything identical or similar to the dished recesses arranged to engage underneath the front and rear cross members of the vehicle body so as to, when the roof module is installed on the vehicle body, cover the front and rear cross members from underneath, as in the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, the reference does not disclose a roof module having a roof panel with two perimeter steps arranged to match up positionally with respective peripheral shoulders of a front cross member, and two perimeter steps arranged to match up positionally with the respective peripheral shoulders of the rear cross member of the vehicle body which the roof module is to be installed, as in the presently claimed invention.

Additionally, the presently claimed invention relates to roof modules that include a roof panel and a trim, wherein the trim is of a conventional type. This means basically a multilayer trim. These types of trims are normally rather fragile. To this, EP0300889 relates to roof

modules in which the trim comprises foam applied onto and conformed on the inner surface of the roof panel. Thus, the foam and roof panel form a single block to which rigidity is conferred by the foam. Thus, when applying the foam module to the cross members in the side rails of the vehicle body, a single line of contact is sufficient. Thus, the present invention, as previously stated, involves a conventional trim which does not confer sufficient rigidity to the roof module. The present invention addresses this problem by providing the dished recesses so as to engage underneath the front and rear cross members of the vehicle body so as to cover the front and rear cross members from underneath when the roof module is installed on the vehicle body and thereby provide increased rigidity of the roof module and mounted to the vehicle body.

The problem of rigidity is further overcome by arranging, at the front and rear ends of the roof module, respectively, two perimeter steps arranged to match up positionally with respective peripheral shoulders of the front cross member and two perimeter steps arranged to match up positionally with the respective peripheral shoulders of the rear cross members of the vehicle body to which the roof module is to be installed. Thus, two lines of contact are provided which, in combination with the recesses discussed above, further contribute to increased rigidity. There is no disclosure of this by the European reference.

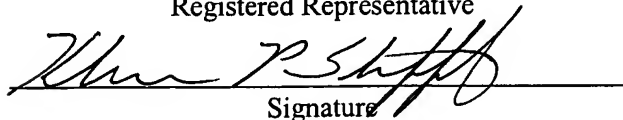
In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 10, 11, 13-15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the above discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on August 29, 2005:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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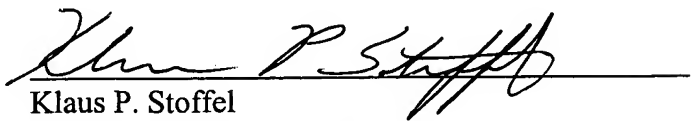
Signature

August 29, 2005

Date of Signature

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Respectfully submitted,



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